

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 4 and 11 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited there. Please AMEND claims 1, 10, 20, 31, 39, and 40 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for treating a plurality of workpieces ~~workpiece~~ by printing and laser treatment, the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a ~~pallet~~ plurality of pallets, each of the pallets configured to register a workpiece to be treated in a registered position fixed relative to the pallet ~~for supporting at least a portion of the workpiece;~~
- (b) a laser selectively projecting a laser beam along a projection path ~~to intersect the pallet;~~ and
- (c) a printing head, ~~for printing the workpiece disposed on the pallet, the pallet being moveable relative to at least one of the laser and the printing head~~

wherein each of the plurality of pallets is movable relative to the laser and relative to the printing head to selectively expose a surface of the workpiece to be treated to the laser and to the printing head, the projection path along which the laser beam is projected intersecting with the surface of the workpiece to be treated when the surface is exposed to the laser to treat the workpiece, and the printing head printing on the surface of the workpiece to be treated when the

surface is exposed to the printing head, the workpiece being in the registered position fixed relative to the pallet when the surface is exposed to the laser and when the surface is exposed to the printing head.

2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a controller connected to the laser.

3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the printing head is moveable between a screening position and a retracted position.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the pallet is moveable.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the laser is fixed.

7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the laser is moveable.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the printing head includes a screen for passing the ink.

9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the laser includes a scanning laser.

10. (Currently Amended) A screen printing and laser treating apparatus for printing and laser treating a plurality of workpieces ~~workpiece~~, the apparatus ~~[[,]]~~ comprising:

(a) a plurality of pallets, each of the pallets configured to register a workpiece to be treated in a registered position fixed relative to the pallet for supporting at least a portion of the workpiece;

(b) a screen for passing ink to print on the workpiece, the pallet being moveable relative to the screen between a screening position and a spaced position; and

(c) a laser projecting a laser beam along a projection path, to intersect the pallet

wherein each of the plurality of pallets is movable relative to the laser and relative to the screen between a screening position aligned with the screen such that the screen passes ink to print onto a surface to be treated of the workpiece and a spaced position at which the projection path along which the laser beam is projected intersects with the surface to be treated of the workpiece to treat the surface with the laser, the workpiece being in the registered position fixed relative to the pallet when the pallet is in both the screening position and the spaced position.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The screen printing and laser treating apparatus of Claim 10, further comprising a plurality of screens.

13. (Original) The screen printing and laser treating apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the laser includes a focusing optic in the projection path for changing a focal point of the laser beam along the projection path.

14. (Original) The screen printing and laser treating apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the laser includes a beam expander in the projection path.

15. (Original) The screen printing and laser treating apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the laser includes a polygon scanner.

16. (Original) The screen printing and laser treating apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the laser includes a galvanometer laser scanner.

17. (Original) The screen printing and laser treating apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the laser is selected to cut the workpiece.

18. (Original) The screen printing and laser treating apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the pallets rotate about a central axis.

19. (Original) The screen printing and laser treating apparatus of Claim 10, further comprising a frame and a plurality of printing heads connected to the frame.

20: (Currently Amended) A method of marking a workpiece, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of pallets;

~~(a)~~ registering the workpiece in a fixed position relative to one of the plurality of pallets ~~a pallet~~;

~~(b)~~ treating an exposed surface of the workpiece with a laser with the workpiece in the fixed position;

(c) marking the exposed surface of the workpiece with ink with the workpiece in the fixed position; and

(d) removing the laser treated and ink marked workpiece from the one of the plurality of pallets pallet.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 20, wherein treating the workpiece with a laser includes at least one of fading, photo-decomposing, cutting, ablating, perforating or marking.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 20, wherein marking the workpiece with ink includes passing the ink through a screen to mark the workpiece.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 20, further comprising moving the pallet relative to a laser marker.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 20, further comprising marking the workpiece with a plurality of inks.

25. – 30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for marking a workpiece, comprising:

(a) a plurality of printing heads;

(b) a plurality of pallets moveable relative to the print heads, each pallet moveable between a printing position proximate one of the plurality of print heads and a non-printing position spaced from the printing position, and each pallet maintaining a workpiece in a

registered position, fixed relative to the pallet in both the printing and non-printing positions; and

(c) a laser projecting a laser beam along a projection path to intersect the workpiece registered on the pallet,~~upon when~~ the pallet ~~being~~ is in the non-printing position.

32. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein each printing head includes a screen and a wiper for selectively urging ink through a screen.

33. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the laser scanner is a galvanometer laser scanner.

34. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the laser scanner is a polygon scanner.

35. – 38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for treating a workpiece by printing and laser treatment, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a plurality of pallets, each pallet for supporting at least a portion of the a workpiece thereon in a registered position, fixed relative to the pallet;

(b) a print head passing a colorant for printing on the workpiece, each of the pallets being moveable relative to the print head between a printing position and a spaced position, the workpiece being retained on the pallet in the registered position in both positions; and

(c) a laser projecting a laser beam along a projection path to intersect the workpiece on each of the pallets, the laser beam selected to effect one or more of a pretreatment of the workpiece to condition the workpiece for reception of the colorant and a post treatment of the colorant on the workpiece.

40. (Currently Amended) A method of marking a plurality of workpieces, the method comprising:

- providing a plurality of pallets;
- [[a)] registering [[the]] a workpiece in a fixed position relative to [[a]] one of the plurality of pallets;
- treating an exposed surface of the workpiece with a laser with the workpiece in the fixed position;
- marking the exposed surface of the workpiece with ink with the workpiece in the fixed position; and
- removing the laser treated and ink marked workpiece from the pallet wherein treating the workpiece with the laser comprises one or more of a pretreating of the workpiece to precondition the workpiece for marking with ink and a post treating of the marking ink on the workpiece.